

ASSIGNMENT

NEWS



JULY/AUGUST 2020

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (useful numbers)

If your club or organisation is not listed here and you would like to be included, then please let me know on 01787 210354 or email bronwenstacey@btinternet.com

Allotments (sjking@btinternet.com)	Stephen King	01787 210932
Assington Books, Village Hall (see post office for times)	Michelle Bournier	07954 221773
Assington Farmshop	Maxine Gardiner	01787 211610
Assington Post Office, Village Hall	Mon 1.30-3.30,	Wed 9-12
Assington Village Charity, Sec	Claire Osborne	07920 800108
Boxford CEVC Primary School (office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk)	Head: Mrs J Davies	01787 210332
Brownies, Boxford	Moiria Grant	01787 211513
Church, Children's activities	Michelle Bournier	07954 221773
Church - Organist	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
Church - Reader	Dr John Symons	01787 211534
Church - Secretary	Emily Cartlidge	07976724266
Church - Treasurer	Ian Clark	01787 211133
Churchwarden	Roger Britcher	01787 211021
Churchwarden	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
County Councillor (james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk)	James Finch	01473 264993
District Councillor (Assington)	Lee Parker	01787 376073
Doctors surgery – Sudbury	Hardwicke House	01787 310000
Doctors surgery – Bures	Bures	01787 227529
Fleece Jazz, Stoke by Nayland Hotel - www.fleecejazz.org.uk	Stoke by Nayland	01787 211865
Footpath Wardens	Roger and Rose Symonds	01787 211534
Horticultural Society	Bryn Hurren	01787 210854
Leavenheath Cinema	Lesley or Ken	01206 262505/ 01206 263266
Member of Parliament (james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk)	James Cartlidge	020 7219 4875
Parish Council	Simon Thorogood	01787 227400
bronwenstacey@btinternet.com	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
john@moorsfarm.com	John Symons	01787 211534
rosemarysymonds42@gmail.com	Rose Symonds	01787 229100
helen.wallace12@btinternet.com	Helen Wallace	01787 211162
i.jordan741@btinternet.com	Ian Jordan	
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	
Parish Council - Clerk, (assingtonpc@yahoo.com)	Jane Hatton	01787 468634
Polstead Films – www.http://polstead.onesuffolk.net/films	Sue Wigglesworth	01787 210029
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton	Gavin & Aaron	01787 210334
Vicar (steve.morley@btinternet.com)	Steve Morley	01787 227407
Village Hall – Bookings (louisa@moorsfarm.com)	Louisa Symons	01787 211534
Village Hall - Caretaker	Paul Battle	07473 933320
Womens Institute, Boxford (annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk)	Annie Phillips	01787 211729

The ASSINGTON NEWS

NOW ON LINE AND IN COLOUR. Go to : Assington.onesuffolk.net/ then select the words 'Assington News' displayed at the far right hand side of the top strap-line.

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Auditor	Ian Clark, 01787 211133

THE WEATHERCOCK

From John Symons

The Assington church photographs were taken by Iain May,

who has family connections in the village, and visits Assington on occasions.

Iain is a well known cameraman who has worked on Top Gear for many years, up to and including 2020, and has worked on a range of popular programmes and documentaries including Formula 1 series for BBC and the Royal wedding.



In around 1990, Dick Heseltine and I, (being the Churchwardens), decided to have the very discoloured weathercock on the church restored and re-gilded.. This decision was made easy because we had, in the village at that time, an expert in the necessary skills. This was Eric Lethbridge, who lived with his wife Molly, at Marshalls Green.

When the weathercock was duly brought down we found that it had two pairs of holes in it, so Eric took it to an authority he knew to see what could be learnt from this damage. The results were as follows:

First pair of holes:

Shot from below, probably from near the church door, by a .303 bullet. This was WW2 issue and one might surmise that this was an act of bravado/celebration perhaps at the end of the war by a (possibly inebriated) member of the home guard.

Second pair of holes:

nearly horizontal shot...round shot...from an ancient smooth bore gun. There were no buildings in 1990 from which this could have been fired, but the roof of Assington Hall (which was destroyed by fire in 1957) would have fitted the bill very well!

Nobody will ever know who fired the shots (? perhaps a son of the family showing off), or, when that happened,but we do know that the wind was blowing from the south west at the time!



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ALLOTMENT HEDGEHOGS PART 2

By Honey Regan

for a couple of nights before he started digging around the edge of the enclosure so we knew it was ready to again be released. It is now in the allotment area with the original two. I am so pleased that once again we have managed to help another little hedgehog. I wonder if in the following months we'll have as much Hedgehog activity!



Since the last time I wrote we have upgraded the Hedgehog home, as the Hedgehogs are growing fast and they need more bedroom space and a bigger entrance hole! Bryn has made them a larger wooden box complete with roof and I have painted it with a little help from my brother Alfie. We are now calling it the Hedgehog Hotel! We hope that any other rescue or visiting Hedgehogs will be able to use the area to snuggle up in to.

Half way through May the rescue hedgehogs seemed big enough and lively enough to be released into the larger allotment area, so one evening we lifted the side of the wooden enclosure, left a nice big bowl of food out and when we looked back in the morning the hedgehogs were gone having eaten all the food we left and they have not retired as far as we know to the hotel. So they have obviously been enjoying looking around the allotment and finding their own food (hopefully some of those slugs and snails that like our tasty veg!) and there are plenty of spaces for them to curl up under things during the night too.

Whilst playing in our back garden on one of the lovely sunny evenings we've been having I found another hedgehog that had fallen into a hole that my dad had been digging for some of the building work we have been doing. The Hedgehog seemed a bit droopy and wasn't moving much so we don't think it had been in the hole for that long but we were a bit concerned as it wasn't very lively and maybe a little dehydrated, so we decided to take it to the hedgehog hotel for rest and recovery. We left food and plenty of water for it and hoped for the best we checked on it the following morning and it had eaten all the food and was snuggled up in the hotel under lots of dry grass. This hedgehog stayed





Takeaway Bar

Drinks, desserts & snacks are available from 5pm – 6pm everyday.

During our Friday Food Takeaway service, we will extend the Takeaway Bar until 8pm.

If you are ordering a food takeaway, you can preorder any other goods you may need, so that they are ready to be collected at your chosen time slot.

Homemade pies and other ready meals are usually ready for collection on Thursday each week.

Takeaway Menu

Fish & Chips with peas £8

Scampi & Chips with peas £7.50

Whitebait & Chips £7.50

Battered Sausage & Chips £5

Double battered Sausage & Chips £7

Chicken fillet Burger, bacon, hash brown, salad & Chips £9

Vegetable mushroom burger, cheese, salad & Chips £8

Breaded Plaice & chips £8

Tempura Prawns, sweet chilli & Chips £8.50

Food takeaways are available on Fridays only from 5 – 8pm.

Call us on 01787 210334 to place your order to designate a 5 minute time slot.



at The Barn, Assington

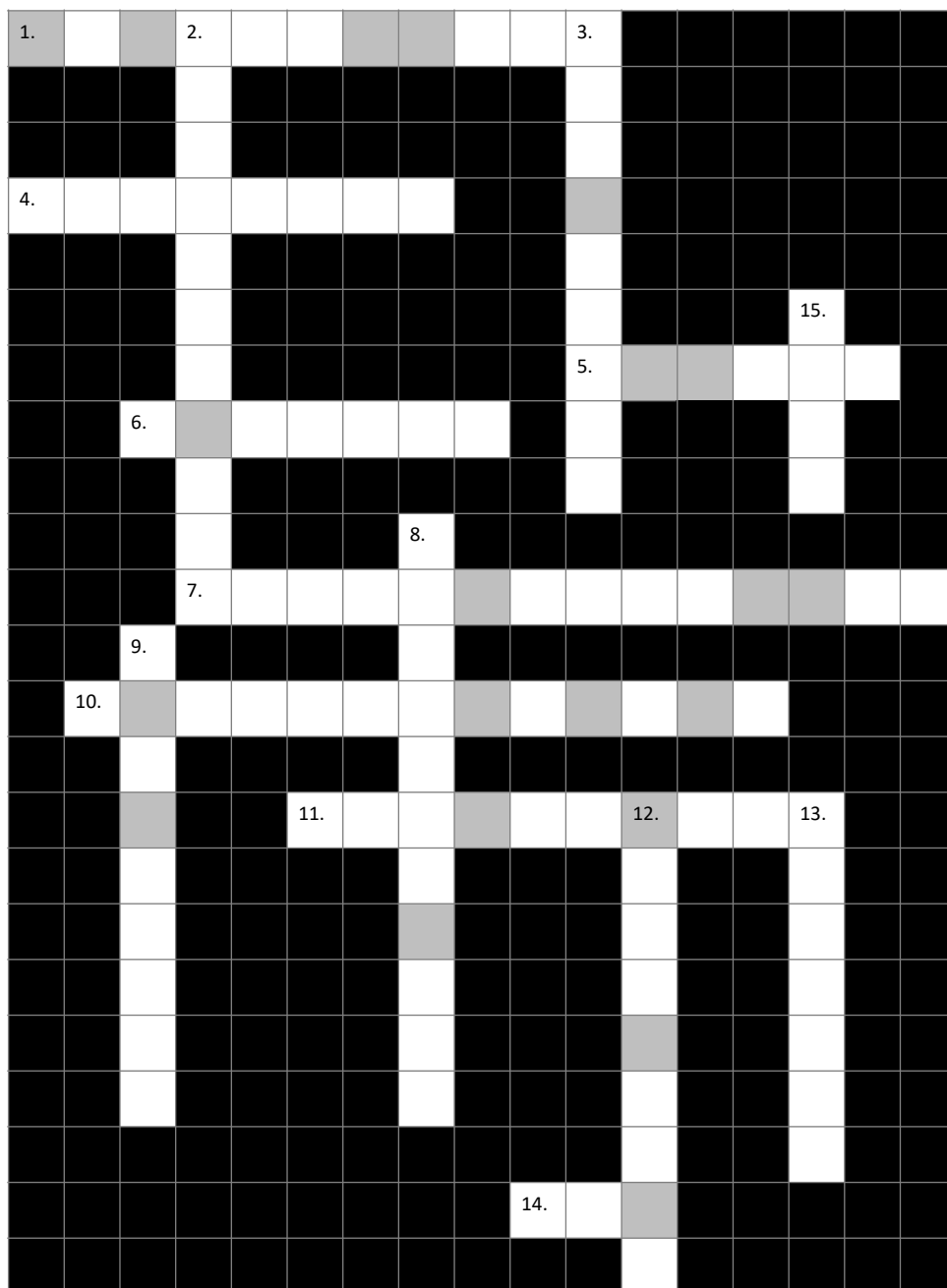
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LOCKDOWN CROSSWORD BY MILLIE BOURNER

As an extra challenge, rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to spell something helping us in these times...



TURN TO PAGE 23 FOR THE ANSWERS

Across

1. Machines used to help people breathe. [11]
4. The name of the scheme introduced by the government to pay people 80% of their salaries if they could not work. [8]
5. What very vulnerable people were required to do. [6]
6. Another name for coronavirus. [5,2]
7. The term given to the gap people should keep between them. [6,8]
10. The place Dominic Cummings drove to, to test his eyesight. [7,6]
11. What people entering the country are now required to do. [10]
14. The abbreviation used for the things like masks, gloves etc. [3]

Down

2. What flew off the shelves in the early stages of lockdown? [6,4]
3. What you can use to clean your hands instead of soap and water. [9]
8. What we should do more often whilst singing happy birthday twice. [11]
9. What everyone using public transport must wear from 15th June. [4,5]
12. The distance people should keep between them unless they live in the same household (as of 13/06). [3,6]
13. What shrank by just over 20% in the first month of lockdown? [7]
15. What we have all done on a Thursday evening. [4]



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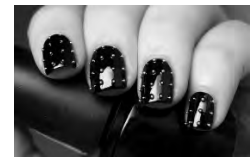
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I look forward to hearing from you.

PARISH CHURCH NEWS

*Letter from the Revd Simon White,
Associate Priest
Bures with Assington and Little Cornard*



Dear Friends,

I hope that as the weeks pass by and the lockdown eases you have been able to meet with more of the people you have not seen face to face for a while. The internet has made video meetings easy but there is still nothing quite like meeting *in real life*.

As I write this, large gatherings are not possible but that might have changed by the time you read this. Here in our village of

Assington, we have had to make the difficult decision not to have a Church Fete this year because it will be hard to keep people safe. This is a major social event in our community and a great loss but the uncertainty around whether people will be able to meet in large numbers on the 5th September has made the decision for us. Of course, there are lots of other similar major events this year - wherever we live - that won't happen or will be very different. Will these dates go by unmarked or will we be able to mark these moments in the diary another way?

We're in a time of waiting and anticipation as things we took for granted are now slowly becoming possible again but not necessarily quickly enough.

Many of us grew up being reminded of the adage "*Patience is a virtue, virtue is a grace*". You may even know it as part of the rhyme

*"Patience is a virtue,
Virtue is a grace,
Grace is a little girl
who would not wash her face."*

Patience is one of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit Paul writes about in his letter to the Galatians and can be one of the hardest to nurture. But often there is no other way forward than to be patient and from that patience can grow grace.

How are you using this time of waiting? This unprecedented change to the pattern of our days has given us all a chance to think about what we miss and what it turns out we don't miss. I hope that in amongst the hardship there have been some good things come out of this for you and I hope it won't be too long before those village events where we can meet up return.

**Best wishes,
Simon**

Vicar:	Rev Steve Morley	227407
Reader:	Dr John Symons	211534
Associate		
Priest	Rev Simon White	07572 418555
Organist:	Bronwen Stacey	210354
Sec:	Emily Cartlidge	07976 724266
Treasurer:	Ian Clark	211133
Churchwardens:		
	Roger Britcher	211021
	Bronwen Stacey	210354

New Church Website



Saint Edmund
King & Martyr
Assington



Assington Church now has its own website.

The coronavirus lockdown has made us think about different ways of keeping in contact with people and this website is just one new addition. The full address is '<https://assingtonchurch.org.uk>' but hopefully it won't be long before the search engines have learnt about it and all you will need to do to find it is to type in 'Assington Church'. Until the search engines have caught up just enter 'assingtonchurch.org.uk' into your favourite internet browser to get to the site.

The aim is to keep it up to date with the latest Church news and events especially at this time of change when no two weeks are the same. There will also be news about the Fete as the plans adapt to what we think will be possible on Saturday 5th September

It has been designed to be simple and easy to use but please let us know if there are any further improvements we can make.

Simon



Assington Church

zoom
Get Together

This Sunday at 10am

Please get in contact if we don't have your email
to give us permission to send you details

The building may be closed but the church is still very much alive and active. Our web pages include:

<https://parishchurch.co.uk>

YouTube 'St Mary's, Bures Parish Church'

f 'The Parish Churches of Bures, Assington & Little Cornard'

Email office@parishchurch.co.uk if you want to receive regular news about what's happening.

Revd Steve Morley - 01787 227407
Revd Simon White - 07572 418555

ONE LINERS (Almost) :

- I'll tell you what I love doing more than anything: trying to pack myself in a small suitcase. I can hardly contain myself
- Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly. But when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it.
- A lorry-load of tortoises crashed into a trainload of terrapins, causing a turtle disaster.
- 'So I went to the Chinese restaurant and this duck came up to me with a red rose and says "Your eyes sparkle like diamonds". I said, "Waiter, I asked for A ROMATIC duck". '

ST STEPHEN'S CHAPEL AND THE BURES DRAGON

By BS

For anyone interested in local history, St Stephen's Chapel should be on your "to do" list, if you haven't already visited it.



St Stephen's Chapel (or Chapel Barn, as it is sometimes called) is situated down a track through Fysh House Farm, off the Bures to Assington road at the top of Cuckoo Hill. Although it is a Private Chapel it is normally open during the daytime for free access.

Tradition has it that this Chapel was built on the site of St Edmund's coronation. Edmund succeeded his father, King Aethelweard to the throne of the Kingdom of the East Angles, an independent kingdom, which today includes the English counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. Although little is known of Aethelweard, it is thought that he died in 854, whereupon his 14 year old son, Edmund was duly crowned, on 25 December 855, by Bishop Humbert of Elmham. The coronation is documented as being at BURVA. Burva is elsewhere recognised as Bures, which was an ancient royal hill, and it is the general belief that this was the hill top, where St Stephens Chapel now stands. This was the private chapel of the Manor of Tany (or Tauney), and was dedicated to St Stephen on St Stephen's Day (26 December) in 1218, in a service by the Archbishop of Canterbury, as the Chapel was built to replace a previous wooden structure built on the traditional site of King Edmund's Coronation.

St Stephen's chapel was abandoned at the Reformation, but mercifully, the building itself was found useful, so rather than becoming dilapidated, it was used variously as a barn, then converted into a hospital in the plague of 1739, and later became a school and then labourers cottages, before eventually a barn once again, (hence its name locally, "Chapel Barn"). The simple, but large building remained a barn until its restoration, only 70 years ago. It was a barn, however, of stone, with narrow lancet windows and a steeply pitched thatched roof. It was restored to its present condition in the 1930s by members of the Probert family, and was re-consecrated. Once a year each summer a service is held in the chapel by the congregation of St Mary's Church, Bures.

What looks on the outside like an agricultural outbuilding, seen inside, however, resembles a mausoleum. It is an amazing building; there are so many interesting things to look at one doesn't know where to start!



There are what appear to be three tombs of de Veres, the Earls of Oxford. The de Veres were the great family in this border region, their star and boar decorating such great churches as those of Dedham, East Bergholt and Castle Hedingham.



were thus forfeited after the Battle of Evesham, but were soon restored.

That of Thomas de Vere 8th Earl of Oxford (born c1336, died 1371) also has ogee arched niches on the sides.

He was a fighting de Vere who fought with Edward III.

Traditionally, the Earls of Oxford also held the position of Lord Great Chamberlain to the monarch. The tomb of Robert de Vere, 5th Earl of Oxford has ogee arched side niches. Robert de Vere (born c1236 died 1296) was a follower of Simon de Montfort in the Second Barons 1265 rebellion. His lands



The third tomb to Richard de Vere, 11th Earl of Oxford, KG (born c1385, died 1417) and his second wife Alice, is of alabaster. Richard was at the siege of Harfleur and was joint commander of the central block under King Henry V at the Battle of Agincourt.

On closer inspection by experts, these tombs are amalgams of perhaps eight original De Vere tombs, which found a final resting place here after being at Earls Colne Priory from the time of the Dissolution until its ruin in the Reformation.

The interior of the building itself is both atmospheric and breathtaking: some windows include fragments of medieval glass, others continental 16th century stained glass, some or all of which may have come from the chapel at Earls Colne. The three beautiful East windows are part of the restoration work of the chapel, fitting in colour and design. There are numerous other items worthy of attention, which have been obtained and placed to contribute to the overall ambience.

Outside and around the back of the Chapel is a viewing point, from which we looked across the valley, to see.....



THE BURES DRAGON

the Bures Dragon, etched clearly on the opposite hillside...



The outline of the Dragon was created as part of the 2012 Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Although the dragon is actually on private land, this is the best place from which to appreciate it.

The story of the dragon was first recorded in 1405 by a monk, who told that townsfolk claimed to have seen a terrifying creature, which had a crested head, serrated teeth and a long tail. It terrorised the villagers, breathing fire, and killed a shepherd and his flock. The arrows used by the locals to try to kill the dragon merely bounced off the monster's scaly hard skin. The creature fled down river toward the adjacent village of Wormingford, and disappeared into the marshes, (where, according to the Wormingford version, it was heroically slain).

Although there is little likelihood of the beast being an actual Dragon, the prevailing theory is that the "dragon" may possibly have been a crocodile; such a creature was apparently given to King Richard I (Richard "the Lionheart") as a gift during the 12th century crusades. A collection of animals were kept in the royal menagerie at the Tower of London. The Bures Dragon may have been "the one that got away".

As a result, the region has long been associated with the medieval mythical beast, and several churches in the area have depictions of dragons (or crocodile-like creatures breathing fire) on their walls or embedded in their windows.

On the right is a more modern window in Wormingford church.

There is a 15th century painting of the creature above the door in Wissington Church, along with a range of wonderful mediaeval wall paintings.



ASSINGTON VIRTUAL OPEN GARDENS: 'The Hollies' from Michelle Bournier

When Bronwen asked if we'd be willing to put a few photos of our garden forward for the July edition, we initially thought we shouldn't – let's face it, we're totally unsuitable for a virtual open gardens article given that we have no idea of the name of the majority of our plants (n.b. this doesn't include mum who knows most, if not all, names)! Another ominous sign was the constant rain that started almost immediately after Bronwen asked and carried on for days on end. However, a couple of days before print deadline, the sun shone and we thought we could at least share our wisdom on the best places from which to enjoy our garden with a glass of wine and our favourite places. So, we grabbed our camera and here goes...!



A great area to enjoy evening drinks!



Perfect for shade on hot sunny days!



Dotty, a vintage 1969 Sprite, joined the family last year finally fulfilling a long held dream of mine. In my head we were going to become free spirits over the Summer months taking her to Latitude and the like...in reality - given two flat tyres, lockdown and, if I'm honest, my preference for accommodation with en suites rather than portaloos - a great place to enjoy a VE Day afternoon tea!



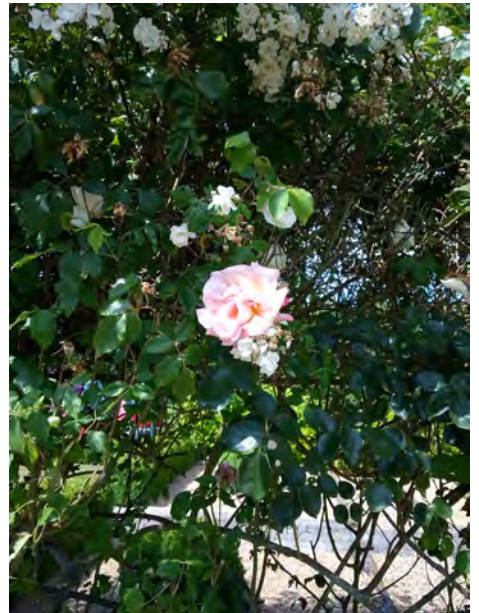
An easy maintenance area of the garden – six vegetable patches when we moved in but, when we realised in our first year here how much time it takes

to maintain vegetable patches and how little time we actually had to spare, these were quickly shingled over as a temporary measure! Something to keep us busy in our retirement hopefully...!

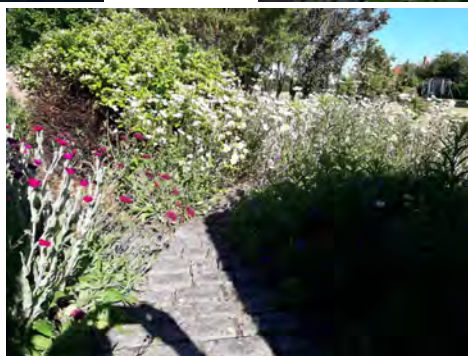


Essential heating apparatus for enjoying the garden in the evening!

And, finally, some of the beautiful plants we are lucky enough to enjoy every year – I am sure we have all been more grateful than ever for our



A wonderful rambling rose which comes into full bloom on the morning of Millie's birthday without fail, whatever the weather conditions over the preceding months have been – it's an amazing sight.



surroundings during lockdown...

Massive thanks go to Assington's very own Gardener Extraordinaire, Fred Kempson, who manages to keep the garden under control and looking great in only a day a

month with very little input from us (...although slightly more than usual in the early days of lockdown when gardening seems to have kept many of us occupied)!



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BOOK REVIEW

By Ellie Mead

Peter Marren

Chasing the Ghost: My Search for all the Wild Flowers of Britain

For his 15th birthday Peter Marren received from his parents a copy of Keble Martin's *The Concise British Flora in Colour*. This is a book the image of which is firmly imprinted on my memory. I can see its bright floral dustwrapper featuring twining wild roses even now in my mind's eye.



In 1968 it must have been a fairly new addition to our school library and I coveted it. Our dull green cloth bound copy of the Collins Guide to Wildflowers on the shelf at home had nothing on this gaudy peacock of a book.

Marren claims that this book changed his life; he used the book like an 'I Spy' Guide, ticking off flowers in it as he spotted

them. But gaps remained and Marren, 50 years on, decided to seek out the remaining species. However this was to be no easy task. It involved being in exactly the right place at exactly the right time. Many of our scarcest wild flowers grow in secret locations in obscure and far flung corners of Britain and when they do flower it may be for only a few days a year. Marren therefore had to plan how he was going to criss-cross the country to take in as many of 'the 'last 50' as possible.

The Ghost of the title turns out to be an almost extinct orchid. Marren is helped in his quest by other botanists, friends and those with local knowledge. In spite of all this support Marren is up against the weather and the terrain and suffers accordingly. As the blurb on the back cover announces dramatically 'the quest nearly killed him'. But this is a fascinating book for anyone with more than a passing interest in wild flowers. It was recommended to me by a fellow member of Lavenham Natural History Group for whom plant surveys are a weekly activity in our local area under normal circumstances (see their Facebook page).

But to quote Marren 'Why, in general, aren't more of us interested in wild flowers? they have wonderful names and intriguing back-stories and, unlike garden flowers, they don't cost anything...flowers are good for us, we need to look after them better.'

Editor's Note:

Quite by chance, I happen to own a copy of the wonderful "Concise British Flora" by W Keble Martin. My edition, dated 1965, was the third impression of that, its first published date. It cost 35shillings, which must have been quite a lot for a girl aged 11 years to afford..... I cannot remember

exactly how I came to own it, whether it was awarded to me as the First Prize in a Brownie competition for presenting a wild flower collection (and you probably couldn't get away with doing that today!), or whether I purchased it myself with birthday money, I no longer recall. Suffice it to say that it has always been a treasured possession, always to hand on an easy-to-reach shelf so that I may look up any unusual or unknown flowers.

Here is another illustrated plate from its colourful contents.

Ellie has been invited to come and have another look through it when visits are once again de rigueur for us both. Something to look forward to!



Reminder:
the Assington
News can now be found in colour on the assington.Onesuffolk.net website

ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bill Milner and Bob Cowlin

2016 TOTAL 599.5

2017 TOTAL 571

2018 TOTAL 559

2019 TOTAL 597

	mm	max	min
2018			
JAN	60.5	11°C	-3°C
FEB	41	9°C	-8°C
MAR	74	14°C	-5°C
APR	49.5	26.5°C	+1°C
MAY	38.5	27°C	+0.5°C
JUN	00	31°C	+5°C

	mm	max	min
2019			
JAN	23.5	9°C	-8°C
FEB	19.5	16°C	-5°C
MAR	44	19°C	-3°C
APR	18.5	24°C	-3°C
MAY	54	26°C	+1°C
JUNE	94.5	29°C	5°C
JULY	36.5	34.5°C	6.5°C
AUG	31.5	31°C	7°C
SEP	37.5	24°C	2°C
OCT	90	0°C	-2°C
NOV	69.5	12 °C	-5°C
DEC	78	10 °C	-5°C

	mm	max	min
2020			
JAN	33.5	10 C	-5°C
FEB	56	11°C	-3°C
MAR	21	14°C	-5°C
APR	22	23°C	-1°C
MAY	5.5	27°C	-2.5°C

MEMORIES OF WORKING IN THE ANTIQUARIAN BOOK TRADE

By Ellie Mead

It was in the mid-1980s as a recent English graduate that I called in at the Castle Bookshop on North Hill in Colchester and asked the proprietor Tony Doncaster, whether he had any jobs going. I remember his response was 'You realise that when the revolution comes Booksellers will be the first up against the wall'. Unsure of what he meant by this or whose side he was on politically I accepted his offer of £5 a day, after all, as Tony was keen to point out, I would be getting a free introduction to the world of Antiquarian bookselling: receiving training in how to value, research and restore books.

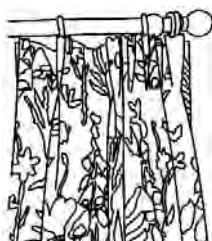
The Castle Bookshop's customers were interesting to say the least. There was Mr Bailey on his bicycle whose purchases were wide-ranging and surprisingly erudite but paid for in very small change. A regular visitor was 'Johnny' a young vagrant who raided the Chinese take away bin for food which he was very keen that we shared with him. There was also Karate man who rather unnerved us with his martial moves and warlike shouts issued before buying a book.

In addition to passing customers the Castle Bookshop also sent out catalogues of books for sale on a variety of subjects; local books on Essex and Suffolk being a speciality. Folklore was an interesting collection with more than a smattering of Black Magic and Modern First Edition Poetry was another. I still treasure my 1st edition of Philip Larkin's The Less Deceived purchased for £5 at this time.

I was often sent to Reemans auction rooms at Headgate on viewing day to check out the books. On one occasion my pocket was picked and my purse taken. It turned up months later, minus cash, very soggy and blocking the cistern of the toilets in the Quaker Meeting House. Tony, as a staunch Quaker, rather relished this outcome.

During the post war years Tony or AB as he was known by his friends, had mixed with many local celebrities in the world of art and left wing politics. Together with his wife Mary, he had been a regular visitor to the home of John and Christine Nash in Wormingford. Here, in addition to John's passion for painting and plants, they took part in local amateur dramatics organised by Christine. Mary had worked for the BBC and been involved in the first broadcasts during the 1930s. Another group of artists known to the Doncasters was the East Anglian School of Art and Painting at Benton End, Hadleigh. Cedric Morris and his partner Arthur Lett Haines gathered around them artists, gardeners and writers including Beth Chatto, Ronald Blythe, a young Maggi Hambling and Lucian Freud. Tony's left wing politics brought him into contact with two local activists: Colchester poet and critic Edgell Rickword and the writer Jack Lindsay. I have a copy of Lindsay's book The Discovery of Britain which he describes in his introduction as 'a book on Local History with a difference, the stress is on quest and discovery, on the ways in which one gets to grips with the history lying obvious and hidden all round one.' There is much of local interest therein. I also own a 2 vol set of Wright's History of Essex (1837) which belonged to Rickword and in which Rickword has made copious annotations and additions to the text. Tony Doncaster was also a founder member of Colchester Archaeological Group, of which I am now the Secretary. I often think that working at The Castle Bookshop was more useful and certainly more exciting than doing an MA and has led to the eclectic range of interests which I still pursue today.

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ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Matters of Interest Discussed at a Meeting held via Conference Call on Monday 18th May 2020

The meeting was conducted by telephone in accordance with guidelines during the C19 pandemic.

■ Apologies for Absence

Cllr John Symons

■ Election of the Chairman

It was resolved that Simon Thorogood be appointed as the Chairman of Assington Parish Council, who will sign the Declaration of Acceptance accordingly.

■ Election of Vice Chair

It was resolved that Andrew Hill be appointed as the Vice Chair of Assington Parish Council, who will sign the Declaration of Acceptance accordingly.

■ Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Stacey declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 20/050b as she is a member of the Assington PCC and the editor of the Assington News, which is funded by the Assington Association. No requests for dispensation had been received.

■ HR and Standards Committees

- It was resolved that Cllr Stacey be appointed as member of the HR Committee. A second Cllr to be appointed at the next meeting.
- Appointment for Standards Committees would be discussed at the next meeting.

■ Representatives to Outside Bodies

- Appointment for the Assington Village Charity would be discussed at the next meeting.
- It was resolved that Cllr Stacey would be the representative to the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC)

■ Appointment of Councillors to review Planning Applications

It was resolved that Cllr Symonds and Hill will continue to investigate all planning applications for subsequent reporting to the Parish Council meeting reviewing the application.

■ Public Forum

❖ Cllr James Finch provided his update:

- Household waste recycling centres reopened last week.
- The County Council wishes to ensure that anyone who needs assistance during Covid-19 is receiving it.
- The majority of children have obtained their preferred place in Primary Schools.
- The EDF consultation of Sizewell is looking to be delayed and there is also great concern regarding the new proposal for three high voltage new power lines which would be coming across to Twinstead.
- Responsibility for "dangerous parking" has moved from the police to the council.
- Adoption and Fostering is in high demand and events will commence again as soon as they are able.
- Chambers buses provided a statement with the up to date information which Cllr Stacey will publish in the Assington News.
- Following an email from Cllr Hill, CCllr Finch confirmed that he had chased a response from Paul Gant of Suffolk County Council and will contact him again.
- Cllr Thorogood asked what the main costs were as a result of Covid-19 and CCllr Finch informed that there is an estimated extra spend of £75 million.

❖ DCllr Parker advised that :

- all the local authorities had been working well together and the resource has been poured into making sure that staff are able to work from home. An update on all services had been circulated round a couple of weeks previously
- he was also able to report that all businesses who had applied for the business grant had been contacted
- planning meetings are being held virtually and the public can join these meetings.

The public meeting was closed. CCllr Finch and DCllr Parker left at this time.

■ Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Jordan advised that the draft plan was not ready to be reviewed as the team's progress has been impacted by the Covid-19 restrictions. They are unlikely to complete the plan perhaps even for a year due to government restrictions on holding referendums but they are able to continue to make progress. In planning terms, if the plan has been submitted and examined although not voted upon at referendum, it will be noted and given almost as much weight at the District Council as if it had been. The pre-submission consultation has happened and the team have received over 30 useful comments which was the number that is typical for a village of Assington's size. The team will bring a revised plan to be discussed at the next meeting.

■ Routine Correspondence

- Cllr Symonds and Hill confirmed that the caravan had been removed.
- The email from Bryn Hurren regarding the bench being installed in May had been noted.
- Cllr Wallace asked about the email which had been received from the Environmental Agency in response following the Council contacting them to find out if the Noise Management Plan for Assington Autos had been received. They confirm that measures had been put in place to reduce the noise but that the plan has not yet been received. It was agreed to follow this up.

■ Finance

- All cheques to be signed and due for signing were authorised by the Councillors. The Councillors noted the reconciliation of bank accounts against the bank statements, and Statement of Accounts against the Budget.
- Councillors resolved to donate £100 to Sudbury Citizens Advice and the Assington Association, £50 to Marie Curie and £350 to Assington PCC. Proposer Cllr Thorogood and second Cllr Jordan.
- CIL Expenditure for 2019/20 was agreed. Cllr Jordan mentioned that the proposal previously was that the CIL monies would go toward traffic calming measures. He proposed that he would draft a letter to CCllr Finch to ensure that the report which was going to be done by Paul Gant at Suffolk Highways with a plan and costs following the walk of the village in December was dealt with as a priority. This was agreed.
- Councillors resolved to carry Earmarked Reserves of £4,500.00 forward to 2020/2021.

■ Planning

Councillors reviewed **Planning Application**

★ **DC/20/01440** - Erection of single storey front/side extension at Zareba, The Street, Assington and resolved to support the application.

■ Licensed Path, Footpaths and Assets

- Cllr Symonds provided a copy of her Footpath report
- It was agreed to increase the payment to David Gotts to £135 to include the trimming of the bank and hedge outside nos 3 & 4 Woodlands, in addition to his cutting the Permissive Paths.

■ Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting date is Monday 27th July 2020 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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ASSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Neighbourhood Plan team held their first 'socially distanced' meeting since lockdown last week to study the 61-page document created as a result of recent consultations and containing all feedback on the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Assington, which completed pre-submission consultation back in March.

It was great to receive feedback from villagers, local landowners and business owners as well as interested parties such as Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Highways England, Suffolk Preservation Society, National Grid, Anglia Water, Natural England, Historic England, Environment Agency and both Suffolk and Babergh Councils. Rest assured, all comments have been scrutinised and carefully considered by the team and our thanks go to everyone who got involved.

What next...? As a result of the meeting, the draft Neighbourhood Plan will be worked on taking into consideration the latest contributions, and sent to Assington Parish councillors for their comments and agreement of the proposed changes, after which the plan can go for final submission to Babergh. Due to Covid-19, there has been a delay in the implementation timetable however, the team remains conscious of the strong desire within the village to get the plan in place as soon as possible.

To learn more about the **Assington Neighbourhood Plan**, you can check out our page on the Parish Council website at: <http://assington.onesuffolk.net/assington-neighbourhood-plan/> or keep up to date on Facebook: www.facebook.com/AssingtonNP/

LITTER PICKING CONTINUES..... Stephen King writes:

There was recently a short article in the Suffolk Free Press about the RSPCA concerns for animal welfare, with 277 animals injured or caught in litter over the last five years.

Another of my litter-picking walks today yielded a bagful in walking from Vicary Estate, along The Street and down Barracks Road to Three Ways.

Paul Battle (the Caretaker of the Village Hall) and I have been clearing up litter around the recycling clothes and bottle banks at the Car Park every week recently, with more on the playing field where people have had picnics. We are investigating the purchase of another bin especially for plastic bottles and cans.

EDITOR:.....it does seem as if the picnic litter on the playing field and at least some of the litter around the recycling banks and along The Street is debris left by very local residents.

PLEASE TAKE ALL YOUR LITTER HOME AGAIN WITH YOU. Nobody is paid to clear up after you and nobody wants to clear up your left over rubbish after your fun!

We live in Assington because we enjoy living in a rural environment, we love having the countryside on our doorstep and we are pleased to live in a caring community. Please enjoy and share the good things with us.

THE 43rd ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Sunday 23rd August 2020 at 2.00 pm

After much thought and deliberation it has been decided to hold and run the show in as normal a way as it is possible to do, it is not easy to predict where we will be in two months' time and if we have a spike in the Coronavirus cases the show will be cancelled. Hopefully the cases will continue to fall and we will be able to have a good successful event that as many in the village as are able will take part in.

Strict measures can be taken to make sure that we only have 2/3 people in the hall during the early morning set up and delivery of produce and entries, the judging will take place with only a minimal number of people in the hall and when the show opens it is quite possible for residents and participants to file round at a safe distance and the presentation and draw can take place outside with teas, coffees and maybe some refreshments.

This event is likely to be the only event staged in Assington this year and is an important fundraiser for the Assington charity which as always will be very glad of the funds. It will of course be run as it has for the past two years in conjunction with the **Scarecrow competition** which is also open to every household in the village.

This could be a chance to really make a splash in the village with some good themes to develop around our brilliant key workers or your least favourite public figure, plenty of scope there. Lets have a scarecrow in every garden, allotment or window in the village.

The Show Brochure will be hand delivered very early in July with all classes listed and all rules and instructions whatever they might be. So please look after those crops and bring just a few of them to the show, if every household in Assington enters just two or three items we will have a brilliant show and turn a profit.

All the normal Household, Cooking, Baking and young peoples classes will also be part of the show to make sure there is something for everybody to enjoy.

Hope to see you there, Doors open 8.00. – 10.00. am. for entries and exhibits.

Bryn

NATURE WATCH

.....its a good year for hedgehogs!

Having seen droppings on a number of occasions and then some recently - in May - I thought I'd check out the CCTV in case. This chap appeared at about 10.30 one night and



again going in the other direction the following night. I have a neglected bit of 'garden' at one end and a pile of old leaves left last Winter at the other - hoping to give a home to a hedgehog. I was very excited!

From Noreen Grant

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BOXFORD SCHOOL NEWS

By Callie Bradbury

Hi Everyone, hope your families and you are well.

In year 5 we are doing Ancient Greece for our topic (I am still at home) and I am writing about Greek Myths and I am going to tell you three myths. My family and I have been reading the PERCY JACKSON series and I recommend them to you, they are all based on Greek Gods and myths.

Eros and Psyche

Once upon a time there was a girl called Psyche who had two sisters who were very jealous of her as she was so beautiful. When her sisters were married and she hadn't found anyone to marry (because even Aphrodite was jealous of her beauty and this frightened off possible husbands). Her Father put her on the edge of a cliff because he was advised to rather than keep her at home. So, she jumped off the cliff but Zephyrus (the gentle west wind) saved her and took her to a faraway palace where his friend (Eros) lived.

Eros made himself invisible as he did not want to scare Psyche (he was worried about his wings). Even though Eros was invisible, they fell in love. Psyche's sisters came and said he was tricking her because they were jealous. So one night, Psyche came into Eros's bedroom with a dagger and an oil lamp. He woke when she accidentally dripped oil on him and he flew away which made her try to drown herself in the river. Pan (the god of shepherds) saves her. Aphrodite (Eros's Mother) is very jealous of Psyche and makes her do challenges to try and win Eros back. In the end Eros saves her and persuades his mum to make her a god so they can marry and live happily ever after.

Pandora's Box

Once upon a time there were two brothers named Epimetheus and Prometheus, who were good gods until one day Prometheus got in trouble with Zeus and Zeus declared Prometheus did not deserve fire. So Prometheus gave the secret of the fire which Zeus told the gods not to do, Zeus became angry and he tied Prometheus to a rock.

Zeus had a sneaky plan, so he asked Hephaestus to give him a daughter and he called her Pandora. Epimetheus and Pandora fell in love and got married. Zeus gave them a box at their wedding which said DO NOT OPEN.

One day, Pandora was so curious she couldn't help but go and open the box. When she opened it Hate, Disease, Envy and Sickness came out. She closed the box and was very sad but it reopened and out came **HOPE**.



As Greek is my topic, I have made my own Pandora's Box.

Andromeda, Perseus and the god of the sea, Poseidon

Once upon a time, there was a princess who was called Andromeda, she was a very beautiful princess. Her mother went round boasting about how beautiful her daughter was. One day somebody told the Nereids (the daughters of Poseidon) about the boasting and Poseidon sent a flood with a serpent to destroy the city.

The King was advised to sacrifice his daughter (Andromeda) and then the city will be saved. One day he went out and chained his daughter to a tree on the edge of a cliff. Perseus came and rescued her with his sickle. Then the serpent came and he chopped its head off. Perseus and Andromeda fell in love and were off to his city but before they could leave Andromeda asked her father for permission to marry and off they went to the city of Argos. They lived happily ever after.

At Boxford children are able to go back to school if they are in reception, year 1 or 6, but unfortunately that does not include me. I am thinking (if all goes well) that soon it will be one year group a day but we have not had an update about what will happen next. Boxford is a good school for social distancing because it has lots of spread out classrooms many with outside doors.

NEWS FROM SESAW

As we cannot hold our annual Open Day this July, join me on a socially distanced, virtual stroll around my estate. The garden looks lovely thanks to Jeanette, in fact here she comes with a wheelbarrow full of hedge clippings.

Some of the animals at SESAW, like me, are permanent residents including Bob, the Kune Kune pig. Give his head a rub as you pass by. Next is the rabbit shed where some pretty bunnies munch hay and wait to be homed. Beyond the ducks on the pond, Michelle crosses the field with buckets of food, hotly pursued by the sheep and goats.

Do you hear cooing? It's Dicky Dove, he's been with us for years. Other than an injured wing which prevents him flying, he is in lovely condition. Close the door of Ruggs Cottage quietly so we don't disturb a young mum suckling her little family. So that's why Mum said we need kitten food. No sign of Ollie, he's probably sunbathing on the roof, how does that cat manage to look so superior all the time?

Don't leave without browsing the bookcase by the gate which Dawn replenishes regularly but wait a minute, people are here by prior appointment so keep your two metre distance. Our talented volunteers have been busy making Rainbow of Hope car hangings and excellent quality washable masks for adults and children which are selling like hot cakes. Jayne takes orders on 07720 079370 and collection slots are booked to keep everyone safe.

I hope you enjoyed the 'tour' and look forward to the day you can visit us in person and meet me, **Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua**. Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Reg. Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Tel: 01787 210888, www.sesaw.co.uk



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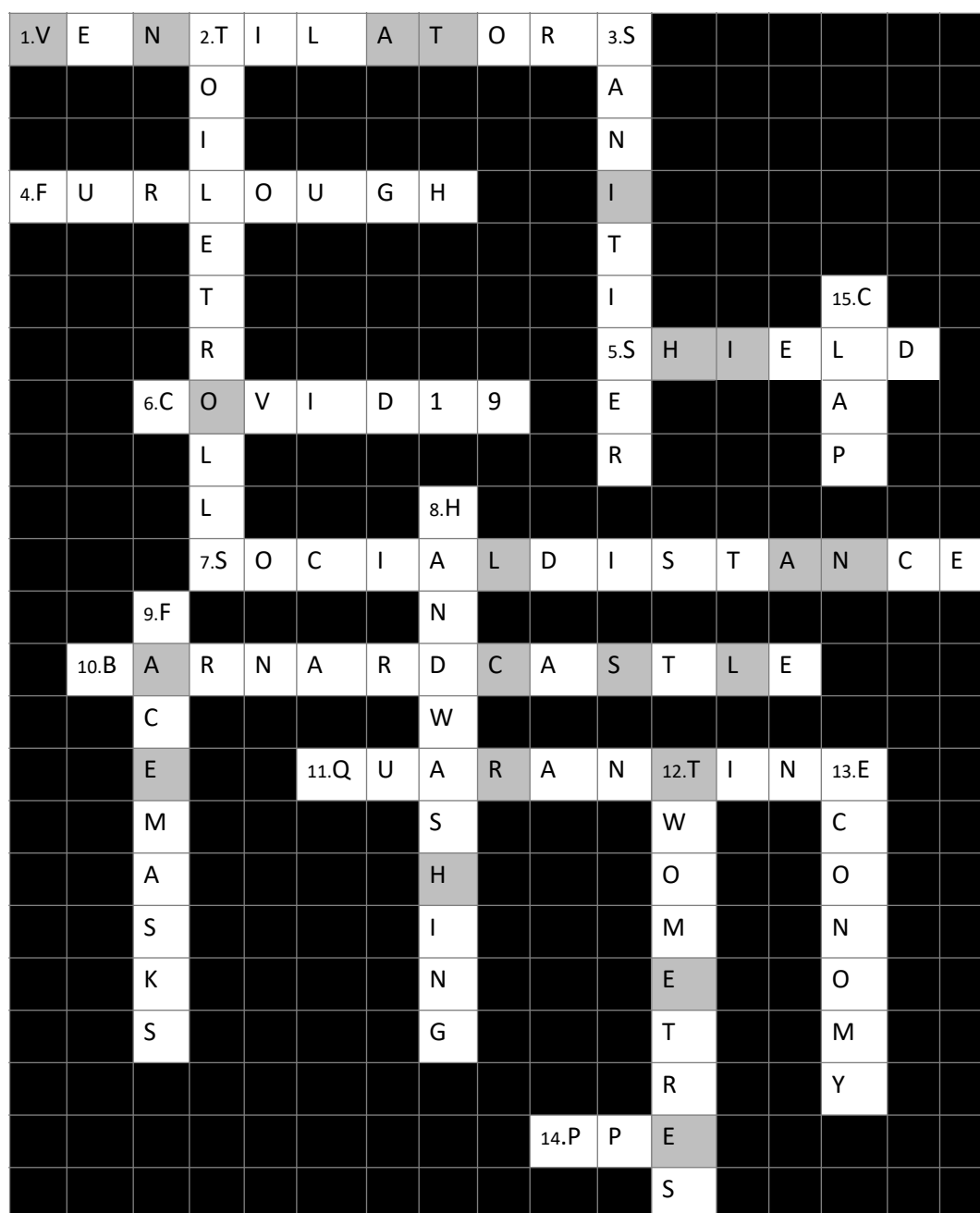
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ANSWER TO LOCKDOWN CROSSWORD THANKS TO MILLIE BOURNER

As an extra challenge, rearrange the letters in the shaded boxes to spell something helping us in these times...



Across

1. Machines used to help people breathe. [11]
4. The name of the scheme introduced by the government to pay people 80% of their salaries if they could not work. [8]
5. What very vulnerable people were required to do. [6]
6. Another name for coronavirus. [5,2]
7. The term given to the gap people should keep between them. [6,8]
10. The place Dominic Cummings drove to, to test his eyesight. [7,6]
11. What people entering the country are now required to do. [10]
14. The abbreviation used for the things like masks, gloves etc. [3]

Down

2. What flew off the shelves in the early stages of lockdown? [6,4]
3. What you can use to clean your hands instead of soap and water. [9]
8. What we should do more often whilst singing happy birthday twice. [11]
9. What everyone using public transport must wear from 15th June. [4,5]
12. The distance people should keep between them unless they live in the same household (as of 13/06). [3,6]
13. What shrank by just over 20% in the first month of lockdown? [7]
15. What we have all done on a Thursday evening. [4]

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Fiona Duncan, Sunday Telegraph

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